

Louisiana School-Based Health Centers



Adolescent School
Health Program
Louisiana Office of Public Health

Department of Health and Hospitals
State of Louisiana

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Department of Health and Hospitals

Office of Public Health

Dear Citizens of Louisiana:

It is my pleasure to present the Louisiana School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) 2007-2008 Annual Services Report, which continues to document the positive impact SBHCs have on the health of adolescents while attending school. Governor Bobby Jindal, Louisiana's Legislators, as well as the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)/Office of Public Health (OPH) continue to support SBHCs because where they exist, students receive quality, comprehensive physical and mental health services provided by professional staff in a welcoming environment. Sixty-two of 69 SBHCs were funded by the State during fiscal year 2007-2008. Sponsors, local school boards, communities, federal and private grants as well as insurance reimbursement are sources of additional support. Parents may remain at work while nearly 60,000 adolescents have access to such services as care for acute illness, injury, and chronic conditions, sports physicals, and prevention programs to reduce and eliminate risky behavior choices. SBHCs play a vital role in assisting schools to keep students healthy, learning, and in school.

The Adolescent School Health Program (ASHP) at OPH maximizes its resources by collaborating with several private and other State agencies, such as the Children's Health Fund of New York, Louisiana Department of Education, Louisiana Medicaid, Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health, Maternal and Child Health, Louisiana Assembly on School-Based Health Care, Louisiana Public Health Institute, Kellogg Foundation, Office of Mental Health and others to more effectively deliver services through SBHCs. Under Governor Jindal, health coverage has been expanded to additional children through the Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program (LaCHIP) Affordable Plan. Diligent effort on the part of Louisiana Medicaid has lead to a reduction in the number of uninsured children in part by establishing SBHCs as LaCHIP Application Centers. Innovative thinking by OPH's Immunization Program allowed SBHCs to administer vaccines to underinsured children up to 19 years of age using federal funds. SBHCs are currently working to generate needed revenue by billing private insurance companies and Medicaid for services in order to build sustainability for the centers. In addition, Louisiana Medicaid is developing guidelines to allow SBHCs to bill for mental health services delivered by licensed professionals. The use of electronic health records is also on the horizon.

We hope to see the program expand to eventually include a SBHC in each parish. I would like to commend the centers' Staff and Sponsors for their dedication to adolescent health. I would also like to congratulate the Adolescent School Health Program at OPH on a successful program year. As we move into the future, we have the chance to be forward-thinking and deliver superior care to our children, and with SBHCs at work, Louisiana is already on its way.

Sincerely,

Alan Levine
Secretary

Executive Summary

It has been a very exciting year for school based-health centers (SBHCs) in Louisiana. In fiscal year (FY) 2006-07, the Office of Public Health/Adolescent School Health Program (OPH/ASHP) funded nine SBHC planning grants, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) funded one planning grant and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation also funded one planning grant. This year, the nine planning grants and the planning grant funded by DHH became fully operational centers under the auspices of OPH/ASHP. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded planning grant is fully operational and OPH/ASHP will continue its funding in FY 2008-09. The new SBHCs are located in the parishes of Caddo, Jefferson, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Richland, St. Bernard, and St. Mary. Detailed highlights of these new SBHCs can be found in Section One of the Annual Report.

In FY 2007-08, OPH funded 62 SBHCs, in 26 parishes, providing access to services to nearly 60,000 students. The students and their families in these communities are benefiting from easy access to the many services being provided at these SBHCs. These benefits are discussed in more detail in the upcoming pages of this year's Annual Report.

Through its partnership with the Children's Health Fund, OPH/ASHP provided all the SBHC behavioral health providers with the opportunity to attend behavioral health workshops and receive continuing education credit. OPH/ASHP also provided technical assistance to new sponsors and best practices workshops on asthma, HIV and tobacco cessation for all SBHC medical personnel. Detailed information on these trainings is provided in Section One of the Annual Report.

Along with all the gains and benefits, the Louisiana SBHCs unfortunately have experienced some losses. Two veteran SBHC directors retired this year, Hazel Suluki at Madison SBHC in Tallulah and Eileen Sonnier at the West Feliciana Family Service Center in St. Francisville. They have made significant contributions to the SBHC movement in Louisiana and will be greatly missed. We wish them a fond farewell and the best of luck in the future with all their endeavors. These directors have passed on the torch to a new generation of SBHC leaders.

Section One, Program Highlights & Overview, details the history of the program, current location of SBHCs, the year's important events, standards governing operation, the continuous quality improvement program, and the SBHCs' Best Practice Initiative.

Section Two, Who Visits SBHCs and Why, graphically displays why students visit SBHCs, including the top reasons for a clinic visit. It includes information on visits by grade, gender, and ethnicity.

Section Three, Louisiana SBHCs Profiles, contains descriptive information on each SBHC, including names of community partners and advisory committee members.

Appendices A-C includes (A) examples of diagnoses regularly seen in the SBHC; (B) the text of the state law that created the program; (C) and the financial statement for the OPH/ASHP for State fiscal year 2007-2008.

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